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**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/27/02 9:08pm  
**Subject:**

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January 10, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft  
US Department of Justice, 950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

As a person who has been in the technology industry for some time (I was first involved with Univac I Serial number 1) I was disappointed to see the government bring suit against Microsoft. I am however happy with the settlement that was reached and I hope it is well accepted by all parties, including those states that still refuse to settle.

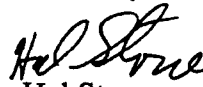
The settlement, that has been fairly mediated over three years, is equitable to all parties. It also answers many of the problems brought forth by Microsoft's competitors and resolves them fairly. For example, I think it is demonstrative of Microsoft's good intentions that it agreed to be monitored by a three-person Technical Committee, and open up its intellectual property in the internal interfaces of its Windows operating system programs to its competitors.

I have used numerous Microsoft products for about 20 years and have found them innovative and productive for even casual users. The cost of these products has dropped considerably during the years of my use. To discourage this kind of innovation is detrimental to users as well as others that would work hard to create other such products. The harassment of this company has, in my opinion been bad for our country, possibly even the world economy.

Responsible controls are important, of course. But extreme control is detrimental to the best interests of an average computer user.

I am grateful that you would take the time to consider my thoughts on this matter. Please use them, as well as those from all the other Microsoft supporters to work out what is in the public's best interest.

Sincerely,



Hal Stone

cc: Senator Rick Santorum

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